

CONFIDENTIAL

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USSR-CUBA

1. Following Khrushchev's and Gromyko's Supreme Soviet speeches in mid-December, Soviet propaganda has sustained the stress on the possibility and necessity of settling East-West disputes by negotiations and on the special importance of improved Soviet-US relations. There are continuing reiterations that the Cuban crisis dramatically demonstrated the need for mutual concessions and compromise--a position the Soviet Union is constrained to defend against its critics in the bloc. And the relative restraint of Khrushchev's spate of New Year's messages and his New Year's Eve remarks suggests that Soviet leaders are still assessing and reviewing policy matters in the aftermath of the Cuban venture.
2. Since October, Soviet propagandists have been rewriting the history of the Cuban crisis and subsequent negotiations--implying that all Soviet commitments regarding the settlement of the Cuban crisis have been met and that the President made a promise that the United States will not attack Cuba or permit Latin American countries to do so.
3. Reporting President Kennedy's 29 December speech to Cuban refugees in Miami, Soviet news media said his "warlike statements" can only cause "anxiety and bewilderment." Journalistic circles in Washington were said to have "admitted" that the speech provided the broad basis for a campaign of disruptive activities against Cuba. These reports implied that the President is threatening to break that promise he made and asked: "Does Kennedy intend to try again to bring the world to the brink of a military conflict?"

4. In reaction, Red Star asserted that "it must be clear in Washington" that the Soviet Union "will never leave Cuba in the lurch, that revolutionary Cuba will not remain defenseless."

A message from Khrushchev and Brezhnev to Castro on the fourth anniversary of the Cuban revolution stressed that the "forces of peace and socialism" must vigilantly watch that the US non-invasion pledge is observed -- a point reiterated by Suslov at an anniversary rally in Moscow. He added a pledge of Soviet assistance to overcome the US economic blockade of Cuba. (There has been no information released, however, on the Cuban-Soviet trade talks held recently in Moscow.)

5. Pravda on 5 January published without comment what purported to be the full text of Castro's 2 January speech as distributed by Prensa Latina.

6. Radio Moscow on 6 January cited an AP report that 2,000 mercenaries from among Cuban counterrevolutionaries are being trained in Colombia, and that a Cuban counterrevolutionary leader said that the number will be increased and that hostilities will be resumed in the future against Cuba with the support of the Organization of American States.

An earlier broadcast (3 January), noting that since the release of the release of the Cuban counterrevolutionaries "the anti-Cuban campaign in the United States has been stepped up," said that a recent NBC TV feature on the activities of the counterrevolutionaries in Florida revealed that the State Department not only sympathizes with their aims but is "virtually encouraging" their undermining activities.